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1. Stage 1 Questionnaire

Have your say

Transfer of powers and responsibilities of the directly elected Police and Crime Commissioner to the directly elected Mayor



West Midlands
Combined Authority

Introduction

West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) is seeking your views about proposals to transfer the powers and responsibilities of the directly elected Police and Crime Commissioner to the directly elected Mayor in May 2020.

Background to the proposals

In November 2015, WMCA agreed a deal with government that enabled the significant devolution of powers, funding and responsibilities to the directly elected Mayor of the West Midlands. This deal aimed at increasing productivity through public service reform to enable people to reach their full potential as part of realising the role that the region plays as a key growth centre of the UK.

The first Mayor was elected in May 2017. In November 2017, a second deal was agreed between government, the Mayor and WMCA to strengthen the West Midlands' devolution arrangements.

The Mayor has powers over economic growth, transport, housing, skills and jobs. However, there are a number of other areas of focus for the Mayor and WMCA, including homelessness and rough sleeping, youth unemployment, community cohesion, public service reform, the mental health commission, youth justice devolution and air quality.

Work is also being undertaken to transfer the responsibility of West Midlands Fire Service governance to the Mayor in 2019.

The second devolution deal included a commitment for government, the WMCA and the Police and Crime Commissioner to work together to look at a detailed governance model and timetable for transferring the role and powers of the Police and Crime Commissioner to the Mayor in 2020.

As part of this a Governance Review which can be found on the WMCA website was carried out. This identified the current situation and identified the benefits that could be achieved by coming together.

Possible benefits include a more joined up way of working, contributing to a shared vision with public services being delivered in a more co-ordinated, integrated and collaborative way. Further details can be found in 'The proposals' detailed on page 3 and the Governance Review www.wmca.org.uk/policeconsultation.

Following this a 'Scheme' was prepared which details how the responsibilities of the Police and Crime Commissioner would operate within the WMCA, and who would be responsible for making decisions. The Scheme can be found on the WMCA website www.wmca.org.uk/policeconsultation.

In considering the Review and the Scheme the Mayor and the WMCA board agreed the need for this to be underpinned by a robust consultation as part of a commitment to devolution and local democracy.

The role of the Police and Crime Commissioner

The overarching role of the Police and Crime Commissioner is to secure an effective and efficient police force. Under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, the Police and Crime Commissioner is required to:

- Set the priorities for policing by identifying the needs of all who live and work in their area.
- Set the force budget and determine the police council tax precept.
- Appoint the Chief Constable, hold them to account and if necessary, dismiss them.
- Set the police and crime objectives for their area through a Police and Crime Plan.
- Contribute to the national and international policing capabilities set out by the Home Secretary.
- Bring together community safety and criminal justice partners to make sure local priorities are aligned.
- Ensure effective support for victims of crime.

Other supporting areas of focus for the Police and Crime Commissioner include reducing gangs and violence, addressing mental health needs, promoting economic development, reducing the harm caused by substance misuse, greater use of predictive analytics, improved roads policing and network resilience, tackling “hidden crimes” such as domestic abuse and modern slavery, improving the response to unauthorised encampments, addressing crime in prisons, developing a police cadets scheme, reducing reoffending and first time entrants into the criminal justice system, effective oversight of counter-terrorism policing, and making policing more representative of the wider population.

Under the current model the Police and Crime Commissioner is scrutinised and supported by a Police and Crime Panel, required by law and made up of councillors across the West Midlands and two independent appointees.

If the role of the Police and Crime Commissioner were to move under the Mayor, it would not affect the operational independence of the Chief Constable or the West Midlands Police.

The proposals

Under the proposals, the role, duties and responsibilities will not change, but from 2020 they would be discharged by the Mayor instead of the Police and Crime Commissioner. The Police and Crime Panel would also remain in place to scrutinise and support the Mayor in exercising these powers and responsibilities.

A similar arrangement is already in place in Greater Manchester, where the role of the Police and Crime Commissioner was incorporated into the Greater Manchester Combined Authority Mayor's role in 2017, and to an extent in London.

The Mayor would appoint a Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime (DMPC), accountable to the Mayor, to work closely with them and exercise certain powers on their behalf. The spirit and intent of the proposals are to build on the work initiated by the current Police and Crime Commissioner arrangements whilst retaining the operational independence of the Chief Constable and West Midlands Police (WMP).

More details on the proposals can be found in the governance review

www.wmca.org.uk/policeconsultation

Ensuring public money is spent as efficiently as possible

The proposals do not impact on the money spent within the West Midlands on policing, most of which is set nationally and ring-fenced. The proposed transfer is not about consolidating and making large cost-savings given that the Mayor's Office of Policing and Crime would require a similar level of expertise and resources to the current arrangements. There are, however, areas where public savings could be made including holding one election instead of two, preventing costly duplication of work and improving efficiency with the closer integration of staff and governance.

Consultation

WMCA will be consulting across the seven West Midlands Council areas, ('constituent councils'). The consultation will include local people, businesses, Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs), organisations and people who work with the police service.

There are two stages to the consultation. This is stage one, which focuses on the principle of transferring the powers from the Police and Crime Commissioner to the Mayor of the West Midlands, and will run for eight weeks, from 16 November 2018 to 11 January 2019.

Stage two will focus on the proposed detail of how the strategic leadership and direction (governance) of policing would operate within the WMCA and who would be responsible for making decisions. This will take place between 14 January 2019 and 11 March 2019.

Responses to both stages of the consultation will be analysed and fed back for consideration by the WMCA Board in March 2019.

Subject to the outcome of the WMCA Board decision in March 2019 all the responses will be fed back to the Home Office. If the government decides to proceed it will create a Statutory Order based on the Scheme, for approval initially by the constituent councils, WMCA Board and the Mayor and then by Parliament, to enable the changes to take place in May 2020.

If it is decided not to pursue the transfer of powers and responsibilities of the Police and Crime Commissioner to the Mayor, then the current situation with regards to the Police and Crime Commissioner will remain exactly the same. Separate elections will be held in May 2020 for a Police and Crime Commissioner for a further four years who will have the same roles and responsibilities as the current Police and Crime Commissioner.

How to get involved

You can find out more information and give us your views by taking part in the survey through our website: www.wmca.org.uk/policeconsultation

policeconsultation

In addition we will be undertaking further consultation events. These will be held on the WMCA's exhibition bus except for the event inside New Street Station*.

Date	Time	Location
Tuesday 27 November 2018	3pm to 8pm	West Bromwich Bus Station, Stand A, West Bromwich Ringway, St Michael Street, B70 7AB
Saturday 1 December 2018	9am to 3pm	Queen Square, Wolverhampton City Centre, WV1 1TH
Wednesday 5 December 2018	9am to 3pm	Ironmonger Row, behind Primark, Coventry City Centre, CV1 1FD
Saturday 8 December 2018	9am to 3pm	Dudley Market Place, near the Duncan Edwards Statue, DY1 1PJ
Monday 7 January 2019	10am to 5pm	Mell Square, near Marks and Spencer, Solihull town centre, Solihull, B91 3AT
Tuesday 8 January 2019	12pm to 6pm	Main concourse*, by the information screens inside New Street Railway Station, Birmingham
Wednesday 9 January 2019	3pm to 7pm	Walsall town centre, Park Street near to Poundland, WS1 1LY

A **glossary** is also available which provides more information and an explanation of key terms.

This survey will follow the Market Research Society Code of Conduct. Data collected from this questionnaire will be grouped together; you will not be identified. All information collected will be treated in confidence and will be used for monitoring purposes only. Personal data will be held by the WMCA and will not be shared with any other organisations. The survey is being conducted in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 and General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

If you have any further queries about this questionnaire please email consultationviews@wmca.org.uk

Question 1

We want your views on the principle of transferring the responsibilities of the Police and Crime Commissioner to the Mayor of the West Midlands.

The Police and Crime Commissioner has an over-arching duty to secure an effective and efficient police force. The Mayor and the WMCA want to grasp the full potential of the devolution opportunity in this respect. The second devolution agreement is an opportunity to create a step change in the public services agenda, by establishing the building blocks to further public service transformation in the West Midlands.

The transfer presents the ability to join up the leadership of local public services and unlock a range of opportunities for deeper and more meaningful collaboration. The Mayor, the WMCA and the Police and Crime Commissioner have a number of shared policy areas where positive progress is already being made, examples include Thrive, Mental Health and Justice, and criminal justice reform. The benefits presented through the transfer of functions broadens these opportunities further to include gains in joining up public services and systems further, focusing on key areas of prevention, early intervention and crisis management.

Moving to a Mayor with Police and Crime Commissioner powers and responsibilities could provide clearer accountability for citizens, business and government with one person accountable within the region for the range of functions that currently sit across the Mayor and Police and Crime Commissioner.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to transfer the responsibilities of the Police and Crime Commissioner to the Mayor of the West Midlands?

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Neither agree or disagree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree | <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know |

Are there any other points you would like to make?

Question 2

To what extent do you agree or disagree that a Mayor with Police and Crime Commissioner functions would improve the efficiency and effectiveness of policing?

- Strongly agree Agree Neither agree or disagree
 Disagree Strongly disagree Don't know

Please use the space below to provide any comments you may have about your answer:

Question 3

To what extent do you agree or disagree that a Mayor with Police and Crime Commissioner functions would improve the governance of policing and crime?

- Strongly agree Agree Neither agree or disagree
 Disagree Strongly disagree Don't know

Please use the space below to provide any comments you may have about your answer:

Question 4

To what extent do you agree or disagree that a Mayor with Police and Crime Commissioner functions would improve the ability of the public to hold the strategic leadership of policing and the wider social causes of crime to account?

- Strongly agree Agree Neither agree or disagree
 Disagree Strongly disagree Don't know

Please use the space below to provide any comments you may have about your answer:

Question 5

In addition to responsibility for effective governance of policing, the Police and Crime Commissioner has responsibility for issues which include considering the impact of offending and reoffending, reducing social harms and promoting positive, healthy and more prosperous communities. Many of these functions require effective partnership working with local councils, health, housing, probation services, employers and the business community. The Mayor chairs the WMCA Board which already has a set of agreed priorities for improving communities and increasing economic growth across the region. <https://www.wmca.org.uk/what-we-do/strategy/> Aspects of the WMCA's activities include a focus on health and wellbeing and public service reform.

To what extent do you agree or disagree that a Mayor with Police and Crime Commissioner functions would create a stronger strategic focus on joined-up public services across the region?

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Neither agree or disagree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree | <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know |

Please use the space below to provide any comments you may have about your answer:

Question 6

There is currently a proposal, which the WMCA and Home Secretary have agreed on, for the Mayor to be responsible for the West Midlands Fire and Rescue Service. The Policing and Crime Act 2017 requires there to be greater co-operation and integration between the Police and Fire Services.

To what extent do you agree or disagree that greater co-operation and integration is likely to be achieved with the Mayor having responsibility for both fire and police services?

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Neither agree or disagree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree | <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know |

Please use the space below to provide any comments you may have about your answer:

Question 7

To what extent do you agree or disagree that there should be one accountable individual for the functions that come under the Mayor and the Police and Crime Commissioner?

- Strongly agree Agree Neither agree or disagree
- Disagree Strongly disagree Don't know

Please use the space below to provide any comments you may have about your answer:

Question 8

Could you tell us your age?

- Under 16 16 - 24 25 - 44
- 45 - 64 65+ I do not wish to disclose

Question 9

Could you please disclose your sexual orientation?

- Bi Gay Man Gay Woman/Lesbian
- Heterosexual/Straight I do not wish to disclose Prefer to self-describe:

Question 10

Ethnicity

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian British | <input type="checkbox"/> Indian | <input type="checkbox"/> Pakistani | <input type="checkbox"/> Bangladeshi |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White and black | <input type="checkbox"/> White and Asian | <input type="checkbox"/> Other mixed | <input type="checkbox"/> Black British |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black Caribbean | <input type="checkbox"/> Black African | <input type="checkbox"/> White British | <input type="checkbox"/> White other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gypsy or Irish traveller | <input type="checkbox"/> I do not wish to disclose | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): | |

Question 11

Religion

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Christian (all denominations) | <input type="checkbox"/> Hindu | <input type="checkbox"/> Muslim |
| <input type="checkbox"/> None (includes atheist & Humanist) | <input type="checkbox"/> Sikh | <input type="checkbox"/> I do not wish to disclose |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____ | | |

Question 12

Could you please disclose your gender

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Female | <input type="checkbox"/> Male | <input type="checkbox"/> I do not wish to disclose |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer to self-describe: _____ | | |

Question 13

Do you consider yourself to have a disability which has:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Severe impact on everyday life | <input type="checkbox"/> Mild impact on everyday life |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No disability | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to state |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____ | |

Question 14

Which constituent council area do you live in?

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Birmingham City Council | <input type="checkbox"/> City of Wolverhampton Council | <input type="checkbox"/> Coventry City Council |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council | <input type="checkbox"/> Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council | <input type="checkbox"/> Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Walsall Council | <input type="checkbox"/> I don't live in the West Midlands | <input type="checkbox"/> I don't know which local authority area I live in |

Other local authority area (please specify): _____

Question 15

Do you work for the public sector?

- Yes No

If yes, could you please tell us which organisation you work for: _____

Question 16

Where did you hear about this consultation?

Many thanks for taking part in stage one of the consultation. Stage two will focus on the proposed detail of how the strategic leadership and direction (governance) of policing would operate within the WMCA and who would be responsible for making decisions. This will take place between 14 January 2019 and 11 March 2019.

If you would like us to send you details of stage two please detail your email address or full postal address:

Glossary

Directly elected Mayor: Directly elected mayors are chairs of their area's combined authority, in this case West Midlands Combined Authority, and are elected by the residents of this area every four years. The next election is in May 2020.

West Midlands Mayor/Mayor: Directly elected Mayor (West Midlands Combined Authority).

WMCA constituent councils: Birmingham City Council; Coventry City Council; Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council; Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council; Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council; Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council; City of Wolverhampton Council.

Directly elected Police and Crime Commissioner/Police and Crime Commissioner: Directly elected Police and Crime Commissioner who has the overarching role to secure an effective and efficient police force and is elected by the residents of the West Midlands every four years. Next election is in May 2020.

Devolution of powers: Devolution is the handing down of powers and money from central government (Whitehall) to WMCA to spend for the overall benefit of the region.

Governance: The arrangements (including political, economic, social, environmental, administrative, legal and other arrangements) put in place to ensure that the intended outcomes for stakeholders are defined and achieved.

Governance Review: A review of the current arrangements and the benefits that would result from the Police and Crime Commissioner role being part of the WMCA.

Scheme: The proposed arrangements and responsibilities to enable the WMCA to undertake the role of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Statutory Order: This is prepared by government and agreed in Parliament which applies further legislation to an existing Act. In this case, meaning the WMCA would be responsible for the Police and Crime Commissioner activities. It allows changes to be introduced without having to pass a new Act.

Thrive: Thrive West Midlands was launched by the West Midlands Combined Authority in January 2017, as a result of the WMCA Mental Health Commission's findings - to deliver positive outcomes for people in the West Midlands through improving their health and wellbeing, both mental and physical.

Police and Crime Plan: Details West Midlands Police service's priorities and objectives.

Home Office: The Home Office is the lead government department for immigration and passports, drugs policy, crime, fire, counter-terrorism and police.

Home Secretary: The Home Secretary is the cabinet minister in charge of the Home Office.

Precept: This is part of Council Tax income that provides a specific service e.g. Policing.

Public Service Reform: To create jobs, enhance skills, develop prosperity and drive economic growth through getting more from our public services.

Once completed please place in the freepost envelope provided.

2. Stage 2 Questionnaire

1

Have your say

How the strategic leadership and direction (governance) of policing would operate within the West Midlands Combined Authority, with a Mayor with Police and Crime powers, and who would be responsible for making decisions.



POLICE



West Midlands
Combined Authority

Stage two consultation

West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) is consulting across the seven West Midlands Council areas (constituent councils) on the transfer of powers and responsibilities of the Police and Crime Commissioner to the Mayor of the West Midlands.

The consultation is seeking the views of local people, businesses, Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs), organisations and people who work with the police service.

There are two stages to the consultation. This is stage two, which focuses on the proposed detail of how the strategic leadership and direction (governance) of policing would operate within the WMCA and who would be responsible for making decisions. It will run for eight weeks, from 14 January 2019 to 11 March 2019.

Stage one focused on whether or not people supported the principle of transferring the powers from the Police and Crime Commissioner to the Mayor of the West Midlands. This ran from 16 November 2018 to 11 January 2019.

Responses to both stages of the consultation will be analysed and fed back for consideration by the WMCA Board in March 2019. WMCA wants people's views on both stages of the consultation in order to ensure that the WMCA Board is as informed as it can be when it considers the consultation response in March 2019. This will help the Board in making the decision whether or not to progress the proposed transfer of powers for further consideration by the Home Secretary.

If the Board decides not to pursue the transfer of powers, then the current arrangements with regards to the Police and Crime Commissioner will remain exactly the same. Separate elections will be held in May 2020 for a Police and Crime Commissioner for a further four years who will have the same roles and responsibilities as the current Police and Crime Commissioner in addition to the election for a Mayor of the West Midlands.

Background

In November 2015, WMCA agreed a deal with government that enabled the significant devolution of powers, funding and responsibilities to the directly elected Mayor of the West Midlands. In November 2017, a second deal was agreed between government, the Mayor and WMCA to strengthen the West Midlands' devolution arrangements.

The second deal included a commitment for government, the WMCA and the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner to work together to look at a detailed governance model and timetable for transferring the role and powers of the Police and Crime Commissioner to the Mayor in 2020.

As part of this a Governance Review was carried out, which looked at the current accountability and decision making arrangements and identified the benefits that could be achieved by coming together. These include a more joined up way of working, contributing to a shared vision with public services being delivered in a more co-ordinated, integrated and collaborative way.

Following this a Scheme was prepared which details how the responsibilities of the Police and Crime Commissioner would operate within the WMCA, and who would be responsible and accountable for making decisions.

The proposals

Under the proposals, the role, duties and responsibilities currently held by the Police and Crime Commissioner will not change, but from 2020 they would be discharged by the Mayor instead. The Police and Crime Panel (PCP) would also remain in place to scrutinise and support the Mayor in exercising these powers and responsibilities.

WMCA's Governance Review proposed that the Mayor could appoint a Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime (DMPC), accountable to the Mayor, to work with them and exercise certain powers on their behalf. The mechanism for appointing a DMPC would be the same as it is now for appointing a Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner.

The spirit and intent of the proposals are to build on the work initiated by the current Police and Crime Commissioner arrangements whilst retaining the operational independence of the Chief Constable and West Midlands Police (WMP).

Stage two of the consultation focuses on how accountability and decision making could work if the proposal was to go ahead. It is asking for your views on the role of the DMPC and eligibility for the position; the most effective ways to scrutinise the work of the Police to ensure accountability; and how to ensure a seamless transition of responsibilities if the decision is taken to transfer the powers to the Mayor.

How to get involved

You can find out more information and give us your views by taking part in the survey through our website: wmca.org.uk/policeconsultation

In addition, we will be undertaking further consultation events to provide an opportunity for people to come and ask questions about the consultation and what will happen next. These will be held on the WMCA's exhibition bus except for the event inside New Street Station*

Date	Time	Location
Saturday 2 February	9am to 3pm	Queen Square, Wolverhampton City Centre, WV1 1TH
Wednesday 6 February	3pm to 7pm	West Bromwich Bus Station, Stand D, West Bromwich Ringway, St Michael Street, B70 7AB
Saturday 9 February	9am to 3pm	Dudley Market Place, near the Duncan Edwards Statue, DY1 1PJ
Monday 11 February	12pm to 6pm	Main concourse*, by the information screens inside New Street Railway Station, Birmingham
Tuesday 12 February	12pm to 6pm	Walsall town centre, Park Street near to Poundland, WS1 1LY
Thursday 28 February	2pm to 6pm	Mell Square, near Marks and Spencer, Solihull town centre, Solihull, B91 3AT
Saturday 2 March	9am to 3pm	Ironmonger Row, behind Primark, Coventry City Centre, CV1 1FD

This survey will follow the Market Research Society Code of Conduct. Data collected from this questionnaire will be grouped together; you will not be identified. All information collected will be treated in confidence and will be used for monitoring purposes only. Personal data will be held by the WMCA and will not be shared with any other organisations. The survey is being conducted in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 and General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

If you have any further queries about this questionnaire please email consultationviews@wmca.org.uk

Question 1

In its Governance Review, WMCA proposes that the Mayor appoints a Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime (DMPC) and delegates certain functions to them. The DMPC would provide a strong role in supporting the Mayor to discharge the Police and Crime Commissioner functions.

Alongside the Mayor, the DMPC position would be both visible and credible, playing a prominent national role befitting the second largest force in the country and as such having an ability to understand and promote best practice not only internally but nationally as well.

Whilst not a legal requirement to appoint a DMPC the WMCA would strongly advocate such an appointment by a Mayor with Police and Crime Commissioner Powers. The Mayor would remain accountable for the discharge of the Police and Crime Commissioner functions, setting objectives for West Midlands policing but would be supported by a DMPC in carrying out the role. The DMPC would be accountable to the Mayor and would exercise certain powers on the Mayor’s behalf. This arrangement is already in place in other areas where the powers of the Police and Crime Commissioner are exercised by an elected Mayor.

Under this model a Mayor supported by a DMPC would work to deliver the Mayor’s priorities whilst under the current arrangement a Mayor and a separate Police and Crime Commissioner work to differing priorities.

To what extent do you agree or disagree that having a Mayor and Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime is more appropriate for the West Midlands than having two separate representatives (a Mayor and Police and Crime Commissioner)?

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Neither agree or disagree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree | <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree | <input type="checkbox"/> Don’t know |

Please use the space below for any further comments that you would like to make:

Question 2

In addition to the existing restrictions on a Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, it is proposed that the DMPC will also be restricted to an individual on the electoral register in the WMCA area, as it is for the Police and Crime Commissioner role.

To what extent do you agree or disagree that the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime position should be restricted to individuals on the electoral register in the West Midlands Combined Authority area, as is currently the case for the Police and Crime Commissioner?

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Neither agree or disagree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree | <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know |

Please use the space below for any further comments that you would like to make:

Question 3

It is proposed that the position of Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime (DMPC) excludes councillors from the Constituent Councils who have a position on the WMCA Board. This would also exclude the named substitute councillors who attend on their behalf when they are unavailable to attend in person.

To what extent do you agree or disagree that the DMPC position should exclude WMCA Board Councillors and their substitutes?

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Neither agree or disagree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree | <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know |

Please use the space below for any further comments that you would like to make:

Question 4

The Police and Crime Commissioner is currently supported in holding the Police to account by a Strategic Policing and Crime Board (SPCB). The Police and Crime Commissioner appoints the members of the SPCB. The SPCB meets in public on a monthly basis and focuses on a strategic review of police performance and regional issues.

The SPCB's role is to assist the Police and Crime Commissioner in holding the Chief Constable and West Midlands Police to account in delivering the Police and Crime Plan and to both challenge and support the overall performance of West Midlands Police.

To what extent do you agree or disagree that SPCB is important to facilitate public engagement and involvement in identifying and resolving policing and crime matters and helping inform decision makers?

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Neither agree or disagree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree | <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know |

Please use the space below for any further comments that you would like to make:

Question 5

A Police and Crime Panel (PCP), required by law, supports and scrutinises the Police and Crime Commissioner and their decisions. The panel is made up of councillors across the West Midlands and two independent appointees. The Panel will remain and continue with its role if the responsibilities are transferred to the Mayor.

Currently membership of the PCP, for local authority councillors, is not restricted and involves appointed local councillors and their named substitutes. WMCA is proposing that Councillors of the WMCA Board and their named substitutes would not be allowed to be members of both the PCP and the WMCA Board.

To what extent do you agree or disagree that Councillors who sit on the WMCA Board and their named substitutes should be restricted from sitting on the PCP as well?

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Neither agree or disagree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree | <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know |

Please use the space below for any further comments that you would like to make:

7

Question 8**Could you tell us your age?**

- Under 16 16 - 24 25 - 44
 45 - 64 65+ I do not wish to disclose

Question 9**Could you please disclose your sexual orientation?**

- Bi Gay Man Gay Woman/Lesbian
 Heterosexual/Straight I do not wish to disclose Prefer to self-describe:

Question 10**Ethnicity**

- Asian British Indian Pakistani Bangladeshi
 White and black White and Asian Other mixed Black British
 Black Caribbean Black African White British White other
 Gypsy or Irish traveller I do not wish to disclose Other (please specify):

Question 11**Religion**

- Christian (all denominations) Hindu Muslim
 None (includes atheist & Humanist) Sikh Jewish
 I do not wish to disclose
 Other (please specify): _____

Question 12

Could you please disclose your gender

- Female
 Male
 I do not wish to disclose

Prefer to self-describe: _____

Question 13

Do you consider yourself to have a disability which has:

- Severe impact on everyday life
 Mild impact on everyday life

- No disability
 Prefer not to state

Other (please specify): _____

Question 14

Which constituent council area do you live in?

- Birmingham City Council
 City of Wolverhampton Council
 Coventry City Council

- Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
 Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
 Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council

- Walsall Council
 I don't live in the West Midlands
 I don't know which local authority area I live in

Other local authority area (please specify): _____

Question 15

Do you work for the public sector?

- Yes
 No

If yes, could you please tell us which organisation you work for: _____

Question 16

Where did you hear about this consultation?

Glossary

Devolution of powers: Devolution is the handing down of powers and money from central government (Whitehall) to WMCA to spend for the overall benefit of the region.

Directly elected Mayor: Directly elected mayors are chairs of their area's combined authority, in this case West Midlands Combined Authority, and are elected by the residents of this area every four years. The next election is in May 2020.

Directly elected Police and Crime Commissioner/Police and Crime Commissioner: Directly elected Police and Crime Commissioner who has the overarching role to secure an effective and efficient police force and is elected by the residents of the West Midlands every four years. Next election is in May 2020.

Governance: The arrangements (including political, economic, social, environmental, administrative, legal and other arrangements) put in place to ensure that the intended outcomes for stakeholders are defined and achieved.

Governance Review: A review of the current arrangements and the benefits that would result from the Police and Crime Commissioner role being part of the WMCA.

Home Office: The Home Office is the lead government department for immigration and passports, drugs policy, crime, fire, counter-terrorism and police.

Home Secretary: The Home Secretary is the cabinet minister in charge of the Home Office.

Police and Crime Panel: The Police and Crime Panel is a statutory body that exists to both scrutinise and support the role of the Police and Crime Commissioner. The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 sets out the key statutory tasks the Panel must undertake:

- Review the draft Police and Crime Plan
- Consider the PCC's annual report
- Scrutinising the decisions and actions of the Commissioner
- Consider the draft policing budget and policing precept
- Hold hearings when the PCC proposes to appoint a new Chief Constable, a Deputy PCC and other senior staff
- Handle non-criminal complaints against the PCC or the Deputy PCC,

Police and Crime Plan: Details West Midlands Police service's priorities and objectives.

Precept: This is part of Council Tax income that provides a specific service e.g. Policing.

Public Service Reform: To create jobs, enhance skills, develop prosperity and drive economic growth through getting more from our public services.

Scheme: The proposed arrangements and responsibilities to enable the WMCA to undertake the role of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Statutory Order: This is prepared by government and agreed in Parliament which applies further legislation to an existing Act. In this case, meaning the WMCA would be responsible for the Police and Crime Commissioner activities. It allows changes to be introduced without having to pass a new Act.

Strategic Policing and Crime Board: The Strategic Policing and Crime Board was created by the Police and Crime Commissioner to assist him in his role of ensuring effective engagement, strategic direction and holding to account of West Midlands Police. The Board is made up of appointments by the Police and Crime Commissioner made through an open process, it meets in public monthly and is supported by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Thrive: Thrive West Midlands was launched by the West Midlands Combined Authority in January 2017, as a result of the WMCA Mental Health Commission's findings - to deliver positive outcomes for people in the West Midlands through improving their health and wellbeing, both mental and physical.

West Midlands Mayor/Mayor: Directly elected Mayor (West Midlands Combined Authority).

WMCA constituent councils: Birmingham City Council; Coventry City Council; Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council; Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council; Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council; Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council; City of Wolverhampton Council.

Once completed please place in the freepost envelope provided.

Thank you for helping us make the West Midlands safer, stronger and healthier.



West Midlands
Combined Authority

3. List of Stakeholder Groups

Shard End Youth Centre
Access In Dudley
Action For The Blind
Adult Learning Disabilities
Adult Social Care Direct
Adult Social Services
Advocacy Matters
African Befriending Service
African Caribbean Community Association
African Caribbean Community Initiative (Acci) - Alicia Spence
African Caribbean Health Improvement Service
African Caribbean Resource Centre
African Community Council For The Regions Accr
Afro British Support Services Impact
Age Concern
Age UK
Age UK
Age UK
Age UK
Age UK
Age UK Dudley Head Office
Age UK Solihull
Agewell
Ahmadiyya Muslim Association
Aims Mental Health Partnership
All Saints Youth Project
Alzheimer's Society Birmingham And Solihull
Alzheimer's Society Black Country
Alzheimer's Society Coventry
Amblecote Christian Centre
Ashiana Community Project
Ashram Housing Association
Asian Blind Association
Asian Care Information Centre
Autism.West Midlands
Bacons End Triangle Residents Association
Balsall Heath Church Centre Bhcc
Bangladeshi Islamic Centre
Bangladeshi Women's Association
Beacon Centre For The Blind
Berkswell Parish Council
Bid Services
Bild
Birmingham Adult Dyslexic Group
Birmingham Advisory Council Of Older People
Birmingham And Black Country Community Foundation
Birmingham And Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust
Birmingham And Solihull Women's Aid
Birmingham Association Of Youth Clubs
Birmingham Carers Association
Birmingham Churches Together
Birmingham Disability Resource Centre (BDRC)
Birmingham Focus On Blindness

Birmingham LGBT Centre
Birmingham Mind
Birmingham People First
Birmingham Women's Advice And Information Centre
Bosworth Community Group
Brett Young Day Centre
British Stammering Association
Bwell
Canley Over 50s
Cares Sandwell
Cemap Coventry Ethnic Minorities Action Partnership
Centre For Independent Living (Wolverhampton)
Cheswick Green Residents Association
Cheylesmore Community Centre
Children And Young People's Disability Service
Children's Services
Children's Society In Solihull
Chinese Community Centre
Christian Youth & Community Services
Churches Together In Erdington
Community Development Team Walsall Council
Community Options
Community Team Learning Disabilities
Confederation Of Bangladeshi Organisations
Coundon Care Centre Charity
Coventry And Warwickshire Chinese Community Association
Coventry And Warwickshire YMCA
Coventry Barbadian Association
Coventry Carers
Coventry Cen
Coventry Mobility Team Guide Dogs
Coventry Multi Faith Forum
Coventry Pensioners Convention
Coventry Resource Centre For The Blind
Coventry Somali Community Network
Coventry West Indian Community Centre And Social Club
Coventry Wheelchair Users Group
Coventry Women's Voices
Crest Community Rehabilitation Enablement And Support Team
Customer Care And Citizen Involvement Team Birmingham Council
Dial Black And Asian Disability Group
Dial Solihull
Disability Support Team Student Services Bcu
Disabled Action Group
Disabled And Able Bodied Social Groups (Dabs)
Disabled People's Network
Dudley Cil
Dudley Council For Voluntary Services
Dudley Cvs Visually Impaired Unit
Dudley Federation Of Tenants And Residents Associations
Dudley MBC Visual Impairment Service
Dudley Mind
Dudley Voices For Choice
Dudley Voices For Choice /Langstone Society
Ekta - Unity
Embrace Warwickshire

Equalities Team
Equalities Team
Equalities Team
Family Care Trust
Finham Residents Association
Fircones Friends In Retirement
Friends In Retirement
Fwt - A Centre For Women
Gender Matters
Grapevine
Groundwork West Midlands
Guide Dogs For The Blind Association Walsall And Sandwell
Gujarati Association
Halesowen Asian Elderly Association
Heart Of England Community Foundation
Ideal For All Ltd
Independent Living Centre
Independent Travel Team Community Learning Disability Team
Independent Travel Training Safe And Active Travel
Kaleidoscope Lus
Learning Disability Partnership
Lgbt Network
Manor Farm Community Association
Mencap
Midland Mencap Head Office
Midland Pensioners Convention
Midweek 50+
Mind - Coventry
Moseley Forum
Muath Trust
Murray Hall Community Trust
National Federation Of The Blind
Neighbourhood Forums
North Solihull Voluntary And Community Alliance
Old Hall Peoples Partnership
Older Adults Community Engagement Officer
One Voice
Options For Life
Oscar
Palfrey Community Association
Partnership And Communities Team
Pedmore Senior Citizens Club
Pelsall Community Association
Pelsall Physically Handicapped Persons Association
Pensnett Tenants And Residents Association
People In Partnership
Positive Youth Foundation
Queen Alexandra College
Rathbone
Resident Group - Edgbaston District Housing Team
Resident Group (Covering Erdington And Tyburn Wards)
Resident Group Covering Kingstanding And Stockland Green Wards
Resident Group Hodge Hill And Yardley District
Resident Group Northfield Neighbourhood Office
Resident Group Perry Barrhousing Office
Resident Group Perry Common Neighbourhood Office

Resident Group Selly Oak District Housing Team
Resident Group Yardley District
Resident Group Yardley Wood Neighbourhood Office
Rights And Equality Sandwell
Rnib Pears Centre For Specialist Learning
Rnib Visual Impairment Service
Rochester Road Area Residents Association
Rotary Club Aldridge
Rotary Club Of Walsall
Sahara Project
Saheli Women's Group
Sandwell Advocacy
Sandwell African Caribbean Mental Health Foundation
Sandwell Asian Family Support Service
Sandwell Churches Link Project
Sandwell Community Information And Participation Centre
Sandwell Council Of Voluntary Organisations
Sandwell Deaf Community Association
Sandwell Irish Community Association
Sandwell Parents For Disabled Children
Sandwell South Asian Targeted Health Initiative
Sandwell Visually Impaired
Scope For Coventry And Warwickshire
Small Heath Community Forum
Smethwick Youth & Community Centre
Smethwick Youth Council
Solihull Action Through Advocacy
Solihull Approach
Solihull Association For The Blind
Solihull Autistic Spectrum Support And Information
Solihull Carers Centre
Solihull Guide Dogs
Solihull Mind
Solihull Ratepayers Association
Solo Life Opportunities
Somali Disability Group
Somali Youth Development Organisation
South West Birmingham Community Association
Sova Midlands
St Peters Centre
Stoke Aldermoor Community Centre
Stoke Health Older Peoples Club
Styvechale Grange Residents Association
Sue Howard Later Life Partnership Manager
Sustain
Tamarind Centre
Terrence Higgins Trust
Terrence Higgins Trust
Terrence Higgins Trust
Terrence Higgins Trust
The Black Asian And Ethnic Minority Tenants Consultation Group Of Sandwell
The Physical And Sensory Impairment Partnership
The Sahil Project
Tipton Community Association
Toads

Uk Asian Women's Centre
 University Of Warwick
 Visual Impairment Team
 Voiceability Sandwell Imca Service
 Voluntary Action
 Waits
 Walsall Black Sisters Collective
 Walsall Carers
 Walsall Deaf Centre
 Walsall Hindu Forum
 Walsall Partnerships Brownhills, Pelsall, Rushall And Sheffield Wards
 Walsall Partnerships Darlaston And Bentley Wards
 Walsall Partnerships North Walsall Area
 Walsall Partnerships Walsall South
 Walsall Partnerships Willenhall And Short Heath Ward
 Walsall Service Users Empowerment
 Walsall Society For The Blind
 Walsall Voluntary Action
 West Midlands Caribbean Parents And Friends Association
 West Midlands Faith Forum
 Wolverhampton Inter Faith And Regeneration Network
 Wolverhampton Mencap
 Wolverhampton Women's Wellbeing Support Centre
 Wolverhampton Federation Of Tenants Associations Cio
 Women Of Wolverhampton
 Yemeni Community Association
 The Bidgley Power Foundation
 Birmingham Council Of Faiths
 Sight Loss Council

4. List of MP's and MEP's

MP's

Title	First name	Surname	Suffix	Constituency	Political party
	Wendy	Morton	MP	Aldridge-Brownhills	Conservative
	Preet	Gill	MP	Birmingham, Edgbaston	Labour
	Jack	Dromey	MP	Birmingham, Erdington	Labour
Mr	Roger	Godsiff	MP	Birmingham, Hall Green	Labour
Rt Hon	Liam	Byrne	MP	Birmingham, Hodge Hill	Labour
	Shabana	Mahmood	MP	Birmingham, Ladywood	Labour
	Richard	Burden	MP	Birmingham, Northfield	Labour
Mr	Khalid	Mahmood	MP	Birmingham, Perry Barr	Labour
	Steve	McCabe	MP	Birmingham, Selly Oak	Labour
	Jess	Phillips	MP	Birmingham, Yardley	Labour

	Colleen	Fletcher	MP	Coventry North East	Labour
Mr	Geoffrey	Robinson	MP	Coventry North West	Labour
Mr	Jim	Cunningham	MP	Coventry South	Labour
	Ian	Austin	MP	Dudley North	Labour
	Mike	Wood	MP	Dudley South	Conservative
	James	Morris	MP	Halesowen and Rowley Regis	Conservative
Rt Hon Dame	Caroline	Spelman	MP	Meriden	Conservative
	Julian	Knight	MP	Solihull	Conservative
	Margot	James	MP	Stourbridge	Conservative
Rt Hon	Andrew	Mitchell	MP	Sutton Coldfield	Conservative
Rt Hon	Eddie	Hughes	MP	Walsall North	Conservative
	Valerie	Vaz	MP	Walsall South	Labour
Rt Hon	John	Spellar	MP	Warley	Labour
	Tom	Watson	MP	West Bromwich East	Labour
Mr	Adrian	Bailey	MP	West Bromwich West	Labour
	Emma	Reynolds	MP	Wolverhampton North East	Labour
Rt Hon	Pat	McFadden	MP	Wolverhampton South East	Labour
	Eleanor	Smith	MP	Wolverhampton South West	Labour

MEP's

Name	Party
Jill Seymour MEP	UKIP
Neena Gill MEP	Labour
Dan Dalton MEP	Conservative
James Carver MEP	Independent
Sion Simon MEP	Labour
Anthea McIntyre MEP	Conservative
Bill Etheridge MEP	UKIP

Other Stakeholders**BAME****Ms Mehmooda Qureshi**

Ms Qureshi

Islamic Society of Britain (Birmingham branch) birmingham@isb.org.uk

The Manager

Sir/Madam

Jami Masjid and Islamic Centre Birmingham

521-527 Coventry Road. Birmingham. B10 0LL, jami_mosque@yahoo.co.uk, 0121 772 6408

To whom it may concern

Sir/Madam

Arrahma Islamic Centre

29 Whitmore Road, Small Heath, Birmingham, B10 0NR, info@arrahmacentre.com, 0121 766 8896

To whom it may concern

Sir/Madam

Birmingham Central Mosque

180 Belgrave Middleway, Birmingham, B12 0XS, enquiries@centralmosque.org.uk, 0121 440 5355

To whom it may concern
 Sir/Madam
 Guru Nanah Gurdwara Sahib Walsall
 West Bromwich Street, Walsall, West Midlands, WS1 4DE, info@gnst.org.uk, 01922 622199

The Manager
 Sir/Madam
 Sikh Community and Youth Service UK
 348 Soho Road, Handsworth, Birmingham, B21 9QL, scys_uk@yahoo.co.uk, 0121 523 0147

To whom it may concern
 Sir/Madam
 West Midlands Police Sikh Association, wmpsikhas@outlook.com

To whom it may concern
 Sir/Madam
 Shree Geeta Bhawan Temple & Hindu Priest Services
 107-117 Heathfield Road, Birmingham, B19 1HL, info@shreegeetabhawan.com, 0121 523 7797

The Manager
 Sir/Madam
 Hindu Cultural Resource Centre Durga Bhawan
 360 Spon Lane South, Smethwick, West Midlands, B66 1AB, welcome@durgabhawan.com, 0121 558 3003

The Manager
 Sir/Madam
 The Polish Centre
 Polish Millennium House
 Bordesley Street, Birmingham, B5 5PH, polishmillenniumhouse@gmail.com, 0121 643 3577 / 07484 074786

To whom it may concern
 Sir/Madam
 Emerging Communities Network
 Bosnia House, 36 Medley Road, Sparkhill Birmingham, B11 2NE, info@e-c-n.co.uk, 07907 580787

The Manager
 Sir/Madam
 Afro Caribbean Millennium Centre
 339 Dudley Road, Winson Green, Birmingham, B18 4HB, info@acmccentre.co.uk, 0121 455 6382

The Manager, Sir/Madam, Birmingham Muslim Foundation
 To whom it may concern, Sir/Madam, Emerging Communities Network
 To whom it may concern, Sir/Madam, African Community Council For the Regions

Chambers

Organisation	Contact
Greater Birmingham Chamber of Commerce	Paul Faulkner - CEO
Black Country Chamber of Commerce	Corin Crane – CEO
Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce	Louise Bennett – CEO

LEP Chairs

Birmingham and Solihull LEP	Tim Pile	Chair
Black Country LEP	Stewart Towe	Chair
CWLEP	Jonathan Browning	Chair
The Marches LEP	Graham Wynn	Chair

Businesses

Aston Martin Lagonda	Andy Palmer
Finance Birmingham	Chrissy Hince
Birmingham Airport	Simon Richards
Balfour Beatty	Mike Reade
Deloitte	Ian Barnes
Black Country Consortium	Sarah Middleton
Westley Plastics	Tom Westley
Jaguar Landrover - Warwick	Trevor Leekes
West Midlands Growth Company	Neil Rami
Beatfreeks	Annisa Haghdadi

Further Education

Organisation	Contact	Job Title
Association of Colleges	Yasmin Byrne	Midlands Area Officer
Aston University	Professor Alec Cameron	Vice Chancellor and Chief Executive
Aston Business School	Professor David Bailey	Professor of Industry
University of Birmingham	Professor David Eastwood	Vice Chancellor
Birmingham City University	Mark Malbas	PR and Communications for University as a whole
University College Birmingham	Professor Ray Linforth	Vice Chancellor
Coventry University	Professor John Latham	Vice Chancellor
Dudley College	Lowell Williams	Principal
Halesowen College	Joan Williams	Interim Principal
Newman University	Professor Peter Lutzeier	Vice Chancellor and Principal
Walsall College	Jatinder Sharma OBE	Principal & Chief Executive
Walsall Adult Community College	Jev Bhalla	Principal

Sandwell College	Graham Pennington	Principal
Solihull College	John Callaghan	Principal & Chief Executive
University of Wolverhampton	Professor Geoff Layer	Vice Chancellor
West Midlands Combined Universities WMCU	Wayne Langford	Director
WMG Academy	Dr Richard Hutchinson	Chief Executive

5. Stakeholder Responses

Ian Austin MP

From: "AUSTIN, Ian" <ian.austin.mp@parliament.uk>

Date: 21 December 2018 at 11:35:02 GMT

To: "ConsultationViews@wmca.org.uk" <ConsultationViews@wmca.org.uk>, "Deborah.cadman@wmca.org.uk" <Deborah.cadman@wmca.org.uk>

Cc: "r.costello@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk" <r.costello@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk>, "d.jamieson@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk" <d.jamieson@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk>

Subject: Responsibilities of the Police and Crime Commissioner - Public Consultation

Dear Ms Cadman,

The importance of clear strategic direction and accountability for policing has been clear for all to see in the last year. There have been national increases in violent crime, vehicle theft and other acquisitive crime, as well as violent extremism and "hidden crimes". There is an obvious need for policing to receive full and robust attention.

It is also clear that the government is still inflicting real terms cuts on West Midlands Police's budget. Therefore, the need for close oversight to drive further efficiencies is as important as ever.

I am worried that the plans to merge the PCC role into the Mayoralty may lead to financial chaos for West Midlands Police. The Mayor has many other functions and I fear that policing could be seen as subordinate to transport and some of the other Mayoral responsibilities.

I have serious concerns around the council tax precept as well, given that the Mayor previously failed to pass his council tax precept through the Combined Authority Board. The current policing precept raises around £100m per year.

I also have concerns around the risk of funds intended for policing being diverted into other projects. The Combined Authority's finance lead will be in charge of West Midlands Police's budget. The merger could mean the force will have new restrictions on its borrowing, potentially meaning that essential investments are blocked ahead of Coventry City of Culture and the Commonwealth Games.

The Combined Authority has identified that there are likely to be few savings from the merger proposal, therefore I see little financial justification for this merger either.

The leadership of West Midlands Police is a full time job that requires laser like focus. I am worried that a Mayor with many other responsibilities won't be able to pay proper attention to policing and an un-elected Deputy Mayor won't have the clout to challenge the police.

West Midlands Police has a smaller budget than Greater Manchester Police, but has more officers. That's because of the efficiencies our PCC has driven and the intensive work he has put in. I worry that a Mayor just won't have the time to focus on our police.

In short, I feel that there are far too many unanswered questions and risks for this to proceed.

I look forward to seeing how the process progresses, especially in relation to the clear decision making role that the PCC was given by the WMCA board.

Yours sincerely,

Ian Austin,
MP for Dudley North

Julian Knight

Date: 18/12/2018 11:12

Julian Knight's Westminster Diary, 27/12/18

Snippet: ...in Westminster for more support from the Treasury, but I also believe that our town needs control of local police funding to be more accountable. That's why I'm backing calls to merge the PCC's function with that of the **Mayor of the West Midlands, Andy Street**. You can support this campaign www.wmca.org.uk. I am extrem...
...ous problem here in **Solihull**, and I have been wor...

Outlet: JulianKnight.org.uk

Sentiment: Very Negative

[Click to open](#) | [Share](#)

Steve McCabe



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Deborah Cadman OBE
Chief Executive
West Midlands Combined Authority
16 Summer Lane
Birmingham
B19 3SD

BJ-/090119

9 January 2019

Dear Ms Cadman,

Responsibilities of the Police and Crime Commissioner – Public Consultation

I am writing in response to the consultation which proposes to merge the current West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner role with that of Mayor for the West Midlands Combined Authority.

Firstly, I would like to put on record that the people of Birmingham have rejected the concept of a directly elected mayor twice. The government chose to ignore their views and imposed a regional mayor anyway but with the promise that this would be a different type of mayor with the emphasis on regional responsibility for transport, health, housing, employment and training. The same government also established the post of Police and Crime Commissioner by arguing the necessity for West Midlands Police to have an independent, directly elected Police and Crime Commissioner, free from other political considerations. I should also point out that in a survey which I conducted, of my constituents, there is no enthusiasm for proposals to extend the mayoral role to include responsibility for policing. It seems that the goal posts are being moved and my constituents' views are being disregarded.

The Combined Authority will be well aware of the huge financial pressures facing local authorities in the region, and West Midlands Police and West Midlands Fire Service are facing similar pressures. The government is still forcing real terms cuts on West Midlands Police's budgets and I just do not see how transferring oversight of the police to a regional mayor will make managing tight budgets any easier. Crime is rising and we need more focus than ever on our policing budget so that we can ensure that the funding we do have is spent in the most effective way possible. It seems likely that by transferring this role to the mayor, who has many other responsibilities, we will end up with less focus on this vital area and inevitably less scrutiny and

I am also very concerned about protecting vital funding for West Midlands Police within the wider Combined Authority budget. We need more than just an assurance that the policing budget will



be ring-fenced and that funding for our police will not be siphoned off for other projects to which the mayor attaches a higher priority.

West Midlands Police do not currently have a cap on borrowing whereas the Combined Authority does. At present the Chief Constable needs approval from the Police and Crime Commissioner to borrow money, however if these proposals go ahead such requests would need to be approved by 7 Council leaders all with competing priorities. West Midlands Police often need to borrow money to police major events, such as party conferences or the upcoming 2022 Commonwealth Games. What will happen if we end up in a position where the police have no flexibility to borrow money because of the constraints placed on it by the Combined Authority?

I am also concerned that the first mayor has not yet even served a full term and we are being told that there is a need to expand his powers to cover police and fire services. Unemployment in the West Midlands has been rising since the first mayoral election in May 2017, with latest figures showing the unemployment rate in the region at 3.9% compared to 3% nationally. More concerning for me as the MP for Selly Oak is that unemployment in my constituency remains stubbornly high at 5.8%. I'd like to see the mayor concentrating on what he was elected to do and bringing down these figures. Homelessness remains a huge blight on our city and I am sorry to say I see little progress in tackling this issue. I certainly don't think the mayor's Voluntary Right to Buy project is an example of a good use of public money when we have so many people sleeping rough on the streets and families stuck in bed and breakfast accommodation. Surely we should allow the mayor and the Combined Authority time to get to grips with existing responsibilities before we add the hugely important role of overseeing the police, particularly given the very high public concern about rising crime?

The Combined Authority have admitted that merging these roles will offer little cost savings, indeed there may even be some new branding costs. I cannot understand the justification for a merger of these roles at this time when the police are under such enormous pressure. It seems to me that the mayor has only served a brief period and this is still a largely untested role. The Police and Crime Commissioner is an independent, directly elected office because the government argued that such a role was vital in order to provide oversight of policing. I am opposed to this merger as I believe are a majority of my constituents. I fear it will weaken the position of West Midlands Police and lead to less accountability and public oversight of policing.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve McCabe".

Steve McCabe MP
Birmingham Selly Oak



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Deborah Cadman OBE
Chief Executive
West Midlands Combined Authority
16 Summer Lane
Birmingham
B19 3SD

BJ-/110319

11 March 2019

Dear Ms Cadman,

Responsibilities of the Police and Crime Commissioner – Second Stage Public Consultation

Thank you for your letter regarding my submission to the first stage of the consultation. I am writing to respond to the second stage of the consultation.

I understand the second stage is focusing on the proposed detail of how the strategic leadership and direction of policing would operate. I am not sure how it is possible to run a consultation about the details of how the proposal would work before you have analysed and considered the outcome of the first consultation on the principle of transferring the powers of the Police and Crime Commissioner to the Mayor. How can the public have any confidence that the consultation is meaningful and their views will be taken into account if we are already talking about how the proposals will work practically?

I also have concerns about the integrity of the consultation following the revelations that individuals from the Mayor's office and Conservative councillors interfered and sought to manipulate the first stage of the consultation. I understand there was a review into this incident. I am not sure how we can have faith in this process if there are such big questions about the impartiality of the consultation.

Turning to the specifics of the second stage of the consultation, the WMCA proposes that the Mayor becomes responsible for policing but it would be an unelected Deputy Mayor who would be the day-to-day lead. How can we possibly justify less scrutiny and accountability of our police at a time when crime is spiralling out of control and police are struggling with less and less resources to tackle more and more crime? As I said in my previous letter it is already acknowledged that these proposals will not generate any significant cost savings so why do we want to weaken the oversight of our police and give responsibility to an appointed Deputy if there are no savings to be made.

The current arrangements mean there is a laser like focus on policing and the budget. For example the Police and Crime Commissioner has recently announced the force will be recruiting 200 new officers, this was only possible through an efficiency drive led by the PCC. I do not think it would be possible for a Mayor or Deputy Mayor to deliver that level of detail, given the other difficult issues the Mayor is already grappling with, such as homelessness.



I also have concerns that where efficiencies are found in the policing budget there is no guarantee that the savings would be reinvested into policing rather than other areas, if these proposals were to go ahead. We are all well aware of the strain our public services are under, no one has money to spare and I am really concerned that by handing over policing powers and responsibility for policing budgets to the Mayor this will lead to policing budgets subsidising the Mayor's other projects and priorities.

The West Midlands has experienced the biggest rise in recorded crime of any region outside London while the force has faced budget cuts of 24% in real terms since 2010. How on earth can we justify meddling with structures at a time when sharp focus and oversight of the police has never been more vital? The last thing we need is a part-time commissioner borrowing from the police budget to finance other pet schemes.

This cannot and should not be a priority given the situation we are in and I urge you to drop the proposals and let our Police and Crime Commissioner get on with their job.

Yours sincerely,

Steve McCabe MP
Birmingham Selly Oak

Emma Reynolds

EMMA REYNOLDS MP
WOLVERHAMPTON NORTH EAST

House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

Tel: 01902 397698

emma.reynolds.mp@parliament.uk

www.emmareynolds.org.uk



Mayor Andy Street
West Midlands Combined Authority
16 Summer Lane
Birmingham
B19 3SD

11 January 2019

Dear Mayor Street,

Re: Proposed transfer of policing oversight to West Midlands Mayor

I am writing to respond to the consultation over the proposed transfer of powers overseeing West Midlands Police from the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), to the office of the West Midlands Mayor. Under these proposals, the PCC and his office functions would be scrapped and the powers of this role transferring to the Mayor. I am writing to outline the concerns I have surrounding these proposals.

With due respect to your work, I am primarily concerned about concentrating such a wide range of powers in the hands of one individual, as well as the upheaval and distraction this would cause at a time of worrying increases in levels of crime and cuts to policing. Presently, crime and policing fall under the responsibility of one elected figure. Under these proposals, the Mayor would take on policing powers and a Deputy would be appointed who would be the day-to-day lead on policing and crime issues. An appointed lead dilutes public accountability of the police, and risks the figure ultimately responsible for policing in the West Midlands (the Mayor) not being able to pay sufficient attention to policing and crime, with it potentially being subordinate to other strategic issues such as transport.

The proposals also run the risk of funds intended for policing being diverted to other projects, as West Midlands Police would no longer have responsibility for its own budget (through the PCC). Under the new proposals it would come under the Combined Authority finance lead.

There are also political concerns with the Mayor previously being unable to pass his proposed council tax precept through the Combined Authority Board. The current policing precept level contributes around £100m a year towards policing in the West Midlands. A Mayor failing to pass a

proposed policing precept through the Board would put at risk the safety of the public, and is not a risk worth taking – especially as the Combined Authority has already confirmed they believe these proposals have little scope for savings.

Under these new proposals, the force would have new rules and regulations on borrowing. Birmingham will host the Commonwealth Games in 2022, which will be transformative for the region, but West Midlands Police must have the ability to invest in new systems and transformation plans so it is ready to keep people safe while the eyes of the world are on our region. There is also the growing threat of fraud and cyber crime – which now accounts for half of all offences – and the Police must have the ability to invest in new ways of tackling new forms of crime. New regulations on borrowing, and a figurehead who does not deal with policing on a full-time basis, would put at risk the Force’s work to better tackle crime of this nature.

Finally, I recently ran a policing survey among my constituents, in which I asked for their thoughts on these proposals. The majority of respondents said they did not know enough about these plans to respond. Those that did, did not believe this to be a priority right now at a time of rising crime. To propose such a change in the oversight of policing in our region without meaningful engagement with the public across the Midlands is disappointing.

Officer numbers in the West Midlands have been cut by more than 2,000 since 2010, and crime has gone up by 60,000 incidents in the last year - this is the biggest rise outside of London. The additional demand has led West Midlands Chief Constable Dave Thompson to say he is “struggling to deliver a service to the public” and “criminals know how stretched we are.” Now is not the time to reduce policing oversight in the West Midlands to a part-time role, and I would urge you to scrap these plans and maintain the current oversight arrangements.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "E Reynolds". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Emma Reynolds MP

Member of Parliament for Wolverhampton North East



EMMA REYNOLDS MP
WOLVERHAMPTON NORTH EAST

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Mayor Andy Street
Office of The Mayor of the West Midlands
c/o West Midlands Combined Authority
16 Summer Lane
Birmingham
B19 3SD

11 March 2019

Dear Mayor Street,

Re: Consultation to transfer powers and responsibilities of the Police and Crime Commissioner to the West Midlands Mayor

I am writing to respond to the consultation on the proposals to transfer the powers and responsibilities of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to the West Midlands Mayor. As set out in my response to the first stage of the consultation, I oppose these plans and I do not believe the concerns that I raised have been addressed.

As I outlined in my response to stage one of the consultation, I am primarily concerned about concentrating such a wide range of powers in the hands of one individual, as well as the upheaval and distraction this would cause at a time of alarming increases in levels of crime and cuts to policing. Presently, crime and policing fall under the responsibility of one elected figure. Under these proposals, the Mayor would take on policing powers and a Deputy would be appointed who would be the day-to-day lead on policing and crime issues. An appointed lead dilutes public accountability of the police, and risks the figure ultimately responsible for policing in the West Midlands (the Mayor) not being able to pay sufficient attention to policing and crime, with it potentially being subordinate to other strategic issues such as transport.

The West Midlands faces a knife crime epidemic. Knife-related offences have risen by 19 per cent in the last year alone, and by over 70 per cent in the last four years. There are 98 knife offences per 100,000 people in West Midlands, far higher than the England and Wales average of 69 per 100,000. Tackling an issue of this importance needs a laser-like focus. As Mayor of our region, your priority should be on working with the existing policing arrangements to build public confidence and public trust in the police, not on taking over the police and reducing the oversight of such a critical public service to a part-time role.



This week the Police and Crime Commissioner announced the recruitment of 200 new officer posts. This is welcome news but was only possible through an efficiency drive conducted by the PCC. I have serious concerns, that if these proposals go ahead, the police will no longer have control of its own budget (via a democratically elected PCC) and any efficiencies found in the future will not be reinvested in policing, but in other projects under the Mayor's portfolio.

There are also political concerns with the Mayor previously being unable to pass his proposed council tax precept through the Combined Authority Board. The current policing precept level contributes around £100m a year towards policing in the West Midlands. A Mayor failing to pass a proposed policing precept through the Board would put at risk the safety of the public, and is not a risk worth taking – especially as the Combined Authority has already confirmed they believe these proposals have little scope for savings.

The nature of policing is changing and West Midlands Police must deal with rising knife crime, and also be ready for the emerging threat of fraud and cyber crime – now accounting for half of all offences. Officer numbers have been cut by more than 2,000 since 2010 and we have seen the biggest rise of recorded crime of any region outside of London. The additional demand has led to West Midlands Chief Constable Dave Thompson to say he is "struggling to deliver a service to the public" and "criminals know how stretched we are." Policing needs a laser-like focus and now is not the time to reduce the oversight of such a critical public service to a part-time role, and certainly not on the recommendation of a consultation which faces huge questions over its impartiality.

I urge you to drop these plans and maintain the current oversight arrangements.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "E Reynolds".

Emma Reynolds MP
Member of Parliament for Wolverhampton North East

David Jamieson

Foreword by West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner, David Jamieson

1. I am a supporter of the Mayoral West Midlands Combined Authority. I have been an Observer member for over two years, and have allocated police grant totalling about £360,000 to support WMCA projects and activities, including the Mental Health Commission, joint work on reducing female offending and work to improve the secure estate for young people. The Force and my Office are playing a leading role in much of this work. I see the Public Service Reform agenda, particularly as it relates to youth justice and data sharing and analytics, as offering potential to develop a more preventative approach. I have engaged closely with the proposals for the transfer of the Fire Authority to WMCA. Previously, in 2015-16, I sought to enter into discussions with Combined Authority colleagues about how my role might work with what was then the proposed mayoralty, but that offer was rebuffed. I have since sought to maintain close engagement with the mayoralty, and Andy Street and I meet regularly.
2. I must be very clear however that neither my manifesto, nor my Police and Crime Plan, says that there should automatically be a transfer of the policing governance function. The 300,000 people who voted for me in May 2016 were not doing so on the understanding that I would transfer the policing governance function to WMCA and its then still proposed mayor.
3. In my Police and Crime Plan I commit to "play[ing] an appropriate role in broader discussions about regional governance including the West Midlands Combined Authority." This I have done. I was not, however, part of the Devolution Agreement 2 negotiations. My Office was asked for suggested content and, in good faith, we developed a number of proposals. On policing governance, we submitted the following:

"WMCA, the Police and Crime Commissioner and Government will work together to review approaches to the governance of policing in our area, commencing in early 2018. The review will seek to identify a governance model that is in the best interests of the people of the West Midlands by preserving the efficiency, effectiveness and clear accountability of West Midlands Police".

4. This is not the formulation that appeared in Devo 2 and it has never been explained to me why our proposal was rejected. Instead, without my knowledge or participation, it was "agreed" that the policing governance function for West Midlands Police would merge into the mayoralty, and that I would support this process. I do not believe WMCA or the government have the statutory authority to seek to direct me in this way. However, I was pleased by WMCA's clear decision on 9 February 2018 that the proposed governance transfer cannot go ahead without my consent.
5. The Oath of Office for Police and Crime Commissioners, which I last took in May 2016, places on me a duty to act with "integrity and diligence" in fulfilling my role as a PCC. I would be breaching this oath if I were to simply accept that there should be a fundamental change to the governance of West Midlands Police without understanding what will be achieved by such a step. The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 was flagship legislation for the coalition administration, and was the subject of much national and local scrutiny. Its introduction was the largest reform of police governance since Watch Committees in 1835. The introduction of PCCs was accompanied by an extensive effort to ensure that the checks and balances in the model were right. This was as it should have been.
6. Placing policing governance into the responsibility of a Combined Authority, with its complex inter-relationships between a Mayor, a new form of local authority, a cabinet / committee of local

authority leaders, unusual statutory basis, multiple stakeholders (LEPs, County Councils, District Councils, constituents, non-constituents, observers etc) and novel devolution and funding arrangements, is an equally momentous change - one that is taking place just a few years after PCCs first took office. I do not accept the assertion that the two models are basically the same. I suggest that only now are PCCs fully defining and exploiting the scope of their role. Despite this, the proposals for a further change to police governance have had none of the detailed Parliamentary scrutiny that accompanied the introduction of PCCs. There have been no detailed discussions with the National Police Chiefs Council, no Home Office led seminars and workshops, no substantive engagement with the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners and other representative bodies. I am not aware of any regulatory impact assessment, or Home Affairs Committee inquiry. There has been no assessment of what it is that is wrong with the PCC model that needs fixing with this change. There have been no reviews of the effectiveness of the model introduced in Greater Manchester, or assessment of the working relationships in areas where the mayoral and policing boundaries overlap but do not align. There appears to have been no consideration of the implications that would arise if the merger of policing governance in the West Midlands went ahead, and then the constituent membership of WMCA, or the boundary of West Midlands Police, changed. This lack of evidence and assessment makes it more difficult for me to make a decision as to whether the transfer of the policing governance function should go ahead. Acting with this level of uncertainty creates risk.

7. The public's confidence in policing is built on fundamental principles, notably the local accountability and operational independence of Chief Constables. Governance reform based on uncertainty represents a significant risk to those principles. If the public do not have confidence in the local governance of policing, then confidence in policing itself will erode.
8. Before I make a decision on whether the transfer should go ahead, I expect to see credible evidence that there will be an improvement in the local policing governance function and that the fundamental principles on which our policing governance model is based will be preserved and enhanced. There needs to be clear evidence why a specialised, dedicated and focused PCC-based governance role - which was, after all, specifically designed for policing - is less good than a Mayoral CA model that makes policing governance one among a multiplicity of functions. WMCA's governance review does not address these questions, and instead seeks to replicate the current model to the fullest extent possible. I have asked for this consultation response in order to begin to fill this vacuum.

David Jamieson, West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner

19 October 2018

Phillip Seccombe

Dear Jodie

Re: Request for response to consultation on transfer of powers of West Midlands PCC

Thank you for your mail of the 7th December announcing the WMCA consultation on the transfer of powers from the PCC to the Mayor.

As my office is located outside of the WMCA area and I am not a resident of the West Midlands, I feel this is a local matter for yourselves, and I of course will be pleased to work with the eventual holder of the Office.

With best wishes

Philip Seccombe TD

Police and Crime Commissioner
3 Northgate Street
Warwick
CV34 4SP

John Champion **John Champion
Police and Crime Commissioner
West Mercia**



**Jodie Townsend
Governance Consultant**

Email: Jodie.Townsend@wmca.org.uk

9th January 2019

Our Ref: JPC/MW

Dear Jodie

Thank you for your invitation to comment on the proposals to transfer the powers of the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner to the Mayor of the West Midlands.

I support the proposal and believe it would deliver significant benefits for local communities in the West Midlands. The system has shown to be in the interests of effectiveness and efficiency in other similar metropolitan areas, and I feel the same would be true for the West Midlands.

I believe the broader remit and scope of the role would also enable enhanced collaborative opportunities and results for communities in bordering areas, including West Mercia.

Yours sincerely,

John Champion
**Police & Crime Commissioner
West Mercia**

West Midlands Police and Crime Panel



West Midlands Police and Crime Panel Response to the WMCA Stage One Consultation on Transferring the Functions of the PCC to the West Midlands Mayor

Introduction

On 26 November 2018 the Police and Crime Panel was presented with an overview of the proposals for the transfer of the Police and Crime Commissioner functions to the West Midlands Mayor, together with the West Midlands Combined Authority Stage 1 consultation questions and its consultation and engagement plan.

Panel Members Present

The Panel members in attendance were Cllr John O'Shea (Chair, Birmingham), Cllr Pervez Akhtar (Coventry), Cllr David Barrie (Birmingham), Cllr Paul Bradley (Dudley), Cllr Rose Burley (Walsall), Cllr Elaine Costigan (Sandwell), Cllr Hazel Malcolm (Wolverhampton), Cllr Suky Samra (Walsall), Kristina Murphy (Independent Member) and Lionel Walker (Independent Member).

Panel Comments

1. Involving the Police and Crime Panel

- 1.1 Concern was expressed that it had taken to this point in the process to involve the Police and Crime Panel. The Panel has a key role in police governance and a statutory duty to support and scrutinise the Police and Crime Commissioner. This raises serious concerns about how thorough the governance review process is.
- 1.2 The lack of Panel involvement to date has resulted in the omission from the Review of Governance and Functions document of the Panel's statutory function under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 to hold Confirmation Hearings for a Deputy PCC, Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer positions in line with statutory requirements laid out in the Act. The Panel insist that this is rectified.
- 1.3 The Review of Governance and Functions document also states that the Panel *will 'exercise broadly the same functions as PCPs under the PCC model, but with some minor modifications such as ensuring the panel only scrutinises the policing element of the precept'* However, these minor modifications are not documented. Panel members accepted the clarification made at the meeting that there will be no changes the way the Police and Crime Panel operates and no changes to the legislation provisions. The Panel still wishes to see any changes that may be proposed – however minor.
- 1.4 The Panel urge the Combined Authority to involve it in future discussions regarding the model for scrutinising the PCC functions and any review of the Panel's functions, terms of reference and rules of procedures that might be necessary to take into account any changes to the governance structure the Panel operates within.

1.5 The Panel is very concerned that the Combined Authority has not demonstrated that they fully understand the statutory duties of the Panel as it relates to the PCC. We need reassurance that this has been fully understood to have confidence in their ability to take on the responsibility of 10,000 employees and a £550 million annual budget.

2. Governance Process

2.1 Clarification was sought on the consent required for the transfer to proceed. The debate highlighted a difference in understanding surrounding the final decision making process. It was explained to the Panel that the decision rested with the Combined Authority, the Constituent Authorities and the Mayor, yet the WMCA minutes of 9 February 2018 state that an amendment was made to the effect that the Constituent Authorities, the Mayor and the PCC have to agree the final governance model. The PCC told the meeting that he considered himself a joint member of the decision making process. This needs to be clarified, as it seems to be a breach of faith that this has been changed. It is a governance issue that the assurance of the 9th February 2018 seems to have been reversed without any scrutiny.

2.2 It was noted that any changes to the mayoral allowance would be determined by an independent review body and the transfer proposals had not yet reached that stage.

2.3 The question was asked if the same qualifications and disqualifications from standing for election as a Police and Crime Commissioner apply to a candidate standing for Mayor with PCC functions and whether they apply to the Deputy Mayor for Policing. This requires clarification.

3 Opportunities and Benefits of Transferring the PCC Functions

3.1 The question was asked what evidence had been considered to identify the anticipated benefits and opportunities of the transfer as the Panel and public need to understand how transferring the PCC functions will improve policing and police governance.

3.2 The Panel asked what assessment of savings had been undertaken and it was explained that the WMCA did not have this figure. However, its vision was that over time, savings would be made through connectivity of services addressing the causes of crime thereby reducing the demand on policing.

3.3 A view was expressed that integration of public services through the transfer of PCC functions to the West Midland Mayor in a more solid governance structure was a positive approach. Other members pointed out that there was no evidence presented that this would be achieved, given that the cooperation of the member authorities would still be required.

3.4 A number of members felt no evidence had been produced that demonstrates any public demand for this change or any evidence that this change will improve policing and crime outcomes for the people of the West Midlands.

4 Borrowing Cap and other Budget Issues

4.1 Members highlighted that the PCC and Chief Constable had plans to borrow to invest in a regional estates programme to make police properties fit for purpose and compliant with a safe working environment and the demands of a modern policing environment. Members asked if

these plans would continue under a new governance structure and what were the implications of the current WMCA borrowing cap.

- 4.2 It was explained that the WMCA had received written assurance from the Treasury giving a clear intention that the borrowing cap issue would be addressed, citing Greater Manchester as an example. However, a final decision could not be guaranteed until ministerial approval was granted. Members welcomed the undertaking to share this letter.
- 4.3 The Panel sought confirmation that any proceeds of future police estate sales would be ring-fenced to the police and not used by the wider WMCA and was given assurance that police assets, budget and funding would be ring-fenced to policing.
- 4.4 It is the view of the Panel that the financial plan, including borrowing, for the West Midlands Police should not be put at risk.

5 Deputy Mayor for Policing

- 5.1 Members noted the proposed model would see the Mayor appoint a Deputy Mayor for Policing to undertake certain functions, whilst those functions that can't be delegated, would be retained by the Mayor. Questions were asked as to how this two-tier police governance would be explained to the public. It was noted that the Deputy Mayor for Policing did not feature in the Stage 1 consultation questions.
- 5.2 It is unclear how the scrutiny and support of the PCC functions of two people holding different, yet connected, responsibilities would operate in practice. The Panel is keen to meet counterparts of the Greater Manchester PCP to see how they discharge their responsibilities.
- 5.3 At this stage, the Panel does not believe that there is any evidence that this proposal will improve accountability and may confuse matters for the public.

6 The Consultation Process

- 6.1 The Panel questioned the rationale for undertaking a two stage consultation and felt the consultation timescale was inadequate, compared to the recent fire governance consultation.
- 6.2 The Panel was disappointed that the consultation documentation did not include a statement by the PCC. It was felt the inclusion of counter-arguments would help the public make a fair assessment of the proposal.
- 6.3 The Panel noted that the consultation documentation asked for opinions on questions without the consultation information providing any supporting evidence on performance of the police service.
- 6.4 It was explained that the executive was responding to a WMCA collective agreement to undertake a public consultation and this was the longest and most robust consultation possible within the timeframe. The WMCA Board wished to hear the public view, although not legally required to do so. The results from both stages would be considered together by the WMCA board in March. It was made clear to the Panel that the proposed transfer was not a done deal.

There remained an option not to proceed, and another opportunity to consider the proposals after the 2019 local elections.

6.5 The Panel would welcome further input into this process at the start of the next consultation phase and also once the consultation process has been completed.

Councillor John O’Shea

Chair, West Midlands Police and Crime Panel

Lead Officer:

Sarah Norman – Chief Executive, Dudley MBC

Contact Officers:

Emma Williamson – Head of Scrutiny Services, Birmingham City

Council Sarah Fradgley – Research and Policy Officer, Birmingham City

Council wmpcp@birmingham.gov.uk Tel: 0121 303 1727

Joint Audit Committee of the West Midlands Police

The Joint Audit Committee of West Midlands Police is established, inter alia, to provide assurance and advice to the Chief Constable and the Police and Crime Commissioner on the effectiveness of governance systems within and between the Force and the OPCC. Its membership consists of 4 members of the Strategic Policing and Crime Board, and an Independent Chair and Vice Chair, each appointed jointly by the Chief Constable and PCC. The Committee considered the consultation on the future of the governance of policing in the West Midlands at its scheduled meeting on 6th December 2018. Although the Mayor, Andy Street, had not been able to accept an invitation to attend, the Committee was pleased to welcome two officers of the WMCA: Tim Martin, Head of Governance, and Henry Kippin, Director of Public Sector Reform, who answered a number of questions raised by members. The meeting was podcast live, and the whole debate is available to listen to on the Police and Crime Commissioner’s website. It can be viewed here; https://westmidspcc.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast_interactive/390727

At the conclusion of the discussion, the Committee agreed that it would provide an opinion on the proposals before it to the PCC and the Chief Constable, by way of a submission to the consultation, based on the matters raised by its members, and the concerns that remained following discussion. The comments set out below are therefore those of the members of the Committee, and not of the OPCC or the Force.

Accountability and Responsibility

The present arrangements provide for clear accountability: from the Chief Constable to the Commissioner, and from the Commissioner to the electorate. The new model as proposed by the WMCA and the Mayor is predicated on the appointment of a Deputy Mayor for Policing, to whom some, of the powers of the PCC would be delegated. In answer to questions, WMCA officers

confirmed that the accountability of the Chief Constable would largely be *through* the Deputy Mayor. Accountability is therefore less clear, and diluted, and although the legal powers will rest with the Mayor and the Combined Authority we do not think this is as strong as the present system of direct accountability to the electorate via the PCC.

The present arrangements have a PCC who is responsible solely for policing. Under a Mayoral PCC model, the person ultimately responsible for policing would be balancing this responsibility against many others. The particular focus of a directly elected Commissioner for Policing could well be lost. Responsibility would therefore be divided and this could be confusing to the electorate and staff. It is also unclear whether under the new arrangements would be a public forum where either the Deputy or Mayor will be 'seen' to hold the chief constable and the force executive to account, and where members of citizens can ask questions directly to the Chief Constable. If this were not provided this would also be a diminution in the transparency of Police governance.

Funding

The Committee accepted that the budget for policing coming through Government grant would still be dedicated to policing. However the locally generated funding, gathered through a dedicated precept, could risk becoming a political football, since the Mayor/PCC could also be negotiating with the Combined Authority on the level of the separate mayoral precept. Considerations other than solely the needs of the police service could therefore influence the decision on the level of precept. Similarly, although assured that the cap on borrowing for the WMCA would be increased by the Treasury if responsibility transfers, there would still be a cap under which the needs of the Force for capital investment would be competing with all other Mayoral services. In two crucial areas of finance therefore, a risk to the future availability of funding is created if this proposal goes ahead.

Oversight

The Committee was extremely concerned that arrangements for robust oversight had not yet been fully considered. The specialist nature of audit in a Police Force, and its importance in maintaining public faith in the legitimacy of policing appeared not to be adequately understood. We believe that if a transfer occurs, a dedicated audit function must be guaranteed. The WMCA officers present sought to give an assurance that the Joint Audit Committee arrangements would continue during the transition, although this would certainly not be straightforward given the nature of the contracts under which the various members work.

Being aware that the WMCA's own Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee suffers frequent inquorate meetings, and has a number of inactive members, the Committee would not be satisfied that absorption of policing into its work would provide the knowledgeable, independent scrutiny which a small dedicated committee can offer. The Committee felt this lack of attendance and participation by members in the various committees of the Combined Authority demonstrated existing weaknesses in the Combined Authority governance model. The public interest regarding transparency and fairness in policing requires robust and authoritative governance and accountability, and this must be guaranteed in any proposed change in structures .

Benefits

The benefits of moving to a Mayoral/PCC model are described in the consultation, and this was reiterated by WMCA officers, as enabling a major improvement in joined-up approaches to region-wide societal problems. The Committee wholly endorse the desire to develop much better synergy in the public realm. However it questions the need for structural change to enable it. The examples given in the meeting, eg approaches to mental health, were all areas where the PCC is already an active, indeed a leading participant. The PCC is already a non-voting member of the WMCA Board. It is not clear how his replacement with a Deputy Mayor would enhance the voice or contribution of policing in that arena.

The Committee were concerned that the WMCA officers present were unable to detail any specific structural or legislative change proposed to occur alongside the Mayor PCC model being introduced that would enable real benefits of synergy to be realised. For example, on the issue of data sharing, the Mayor clearly has a desire for better partnership working allowing improved data sharing, as all authorities do, but the WMCA officers were unable to articulate how this is proposed to be realised.

Conclusion

The Committee recognises that the current arrangements in which the OPCC and Force is each constituted as a Corporation Sole is highly unusual and has presented many administrative challenges. It has not evolved in completely the same way in different Force areas, and any new incoming PCC might choose to alter arrangements in line with their own electoral promises. We are therefore privileged in this instance to be able to make comment on proposed changes, rather than retrospectively comment on changes that have already been made.

We trust that the concerns expressed above will be helpful both to the Mayor and WMCA, and to the PCC and Chief constable, as they consider the next steps in this process of consultation.

Sue Davis CBE, Independent Chair, Joint Audit Committee, on behalf of the Committee

08/12/18

Solihull Ratepayers Association

Dear Anna

Police & Crime Commissioner Consultation on Transfer of Powers & Responsibilities



Further to my Email of 4th January on the above consultation I am pleased to advise that the Solihull Ratepayers Association are in support of the proposed Transfer of Powers and Responsibilities of the Police & Crime Commissioner to the Elected Mayor as set out in your "Have your say" Consultation Document.

We did take the opportunity to discuss the proposals with Andy Street at the Solihull Consultation on 7th January and I have reported back to my Management Committee accordingly.

For information the photo inserted is our Membership Secretary Marcella Barton with the Mayor at the 7th January Solihull Consultation Event.

Very best regards

Trevor Eames

Secretary - Solihull Ratepayers Association

Association of Police and Crime Commissioners

9th January 2018

Dear Sir / Madam,

RE: Consultation to the transfer of powers and responsibilities of the directly elected Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to the directly elected Mayor

I am writing on behalf of the Association of Police and Crime Commissioner's (APCC) Board to respond to the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) consultation to the transfer of powers and responsibilities of the directly elected Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to the directly elected Mayor. With respect to the specific questions set out in the consultation, this remains rightly a matter for the people of West Midlands, however we offer our views around the importance of involving the PCC in the process.

Any decision to transfer power between a PCC and a Mayor should only proceed following full consultation, and with the support of, the incumbent PCC. This reflects the express wishes of the then Home Secretary, now Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Theresa May MP who in a letter to PCCs in July 2015 set out the process for devolution:

It is important that PCCs are involved early on in the development at local level of any proposals for devolution in respect of the implications for policing and crime. Inclusion of the PCC role within mayoral devolution deals must be considered on a case by case basis. In my view, consideration of the transfer of the PCC role should be based on a clear and persuasive business case from a local area. This must take account of the views of relevant PCCs.

With this in mind, we are pleased that this approach (full consultation with, and agreement from the PCC) was proposed by Cllr George Duggins and accepted by WMCA Board and the Mayor in February 2018. We note that this follows the precedent set in Manchester where devolution occurred with the full support of the then PCC.

APPENDIX B – BECG CONSULTATION ANALYSIS REPORT: APPENDICES

We hope that you will find these comments helpful and that you will agree that it is important to maintain consistency in approach when considering the devolution of powers from directly elected PCCs to directly Mayors.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. B. Williamson', enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Mark Burns-Williamson OBE

Chair, Association of Police and Crime Commissioners
Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire